

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 were pending, and all were rejected under Section 112 or Section 103. New claims 20-27 are added in this amendment.

Claim Rejections—35 USC § 112

Claims 1-19 were rejected under Section 112. Each of the bases for rejection are addressed below.

With regard to claims 1 and 14, the office action suggested that it was unclear how one lower connector portion is releasably connected to a plurality of upper connector portions. Claim 1 has been canceled, and its subject matter incorporated into claim 5. For each of claim 5 and claim 14, the claim language has been amended in accordance with the office action to provide that the plurality of lower connector portions are connected to the plurality of upper connector portions.

The typographical error in claim 1 regarding a “pivotally connection” has been amended where that language was incorporated into claim 5.

Claim 4 triggered two bases of rejection, and that claim has been canceled.

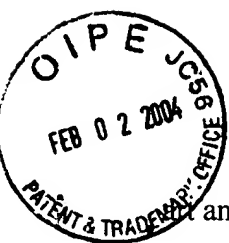
Claims 15-19 each were rejected under Section 112 for antecedent basis reasons, and each has been canceled by this amendment.

The office action stated that the last two lines of claim 7 are grammatically unclear. Claim 7 has been amended to clarify the intended claim language.

Claim rejections—35 USC § 103

Claims 1-4 and 11-17 were rejected under Section 103. Claims 1-4, 11-13, and 15-17 have been canceled by this amendment. The applicant does not concede the basis for rejection, but has canceled the claims in order to more quickly place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim 14 has been amended in this response. In particular, claim 14 now recites that system includes pluralities of pairs of upper connector portions. As the applicant understands the



and the bases for rejection, this additional feature is not taught by the art and was a novel and unobvious feature that rendered claims 18 and 19 allowable. Claim 14 is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

New claims 20-27

New claims 20-27 are also believed to be allowable. Claims 20-22 depend from allowable claim 14, and are believed to be allowable on that basis. In addition, claims 20 and 21 incorporate the previously allowable subject matter of claims 18 and 19. New claim 22 adds an additional feature regarding the connectors that is believed to be allowable from claim 14. No new matter is added (see application, at page 6, line 28 to page 7, line 5).

New claims 23-27 are similar in scope to the allowed claims, but worded somewhat differently. Each is believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all claims.

Respectfully submitted,

BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM^{PLLC}

Lawrence D. Graham
Registration No. 40,001
Direct Dial: 206.381.3304

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BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM^{PLLC}

701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4800
Seattle, Washington 98104
206.381.3300 • F: 206.381.3301